

**REMARKS**

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow. Claims 1-2, 6-7, and 9-10 have been rejected, and Claims 3-5 and 8 have been objected to by the Examiner. Claim 1 has been cancelled without prejudice, and Claims 2 and 6-9 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, Claims 2-10 will be pending in the present application upon entry of this Reply and Amendment.

A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

**Claim Objections and Comment on Statement of Reasons for Allowance**

On page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that Claims 3-5 and 8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 3 has been amended to include all limitations of independent Claim 1. Claim 1 has been cancelled without prejudice, and Claims 2 and 6-9 have been amended to depend from new independent Claim 3. Accordingly, it is submitted that independent Claim 3 and dependent Claims 2 and 4-10 (each of which depend from independent Claim 3) are allowable.

The Examiner provided the following statement of reasons for allowance:

None of the prior art discloses or suggests that the installation fitting consists of two concentrically positioned annular elements or the valve configuration includes a pressure-responsive, movable valve lip.

While the Applicants agree that the allowed claims recite a combination of subject matter that is patentable over the cited references, the Applicants do not necessarily agree with or acquiesce in the statement of reasons for allowance given by the Examiner.

Moreover, the Applicants note that the recited subject matter as well as various other subject matter and/or combinations of subject matter may be patentable for other reasons than those given by the Examiner. The Applicants expressly reserve the right to set forth additional and/or alternative reasons for patentability and/or allowance with the present Application or in any other future proceeding.

**Claim Rejections**

On page 2 of the Office Action, Claims 1-2, 6-7, and 9-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,328,290 to Szyborski et al.

Claim 1 has been cancelled, and each of the currently pending claims depends from new independent Claim 3, which the Examiner has indicated is allowable. Accordingly, it is submitted that each of pending Claims 2-10 is allowable. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection over Szyborski et al. is respectfully requested.

\* \* \*

It is submitted that each outstanding objection and rejection to the Application has been overcome, and that the Application is in a condition for allowance. Claims 2-10 will be pending in this Application. The Applicants request consideration and allowance of all pending Claims 2-10.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1447. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 06-1447. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 06-1447.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 8/16/2004

By 

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP  
Customer Number: 26371  
Telephone: (414) 297-5564  
Facsimile: (414) 297-4900

Marcus W. Sprow  
Attorney for Applicant  
Registration No. 48,580